

## PINNACLE ESTATES COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES - JANUARY 22, 2009



On January 22, 2009, City of Auburn staff met with residents of the Pinnacle Estates Neighborhood in the home of Joe and Marcea Galindo to discuss community safety concerns.

**Staff in Attendance:** MAYOR PETE LEWIS, POLICE CHIEF JIM KELLY, POLICE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICER HANS KRENZ, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MANAGER SARAH MILLER, TRANSPORTATION PLANNER CHRIS HANKINS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER DUANNA RICHARDS

**Community Members in Attendance:** GARY WHITE, CONNIE AND JIM THOMSON, JASON BRANDT, CHIP SWITZER, JERRY AND JENNIFER MILES, LOC CHU, ROZ AND JIM WLUTIS, KEITH AND LYNDIA DEMIRJIAN, JOE AND MARCEA GALINDO AND JUNWON AND JEONGRAN SU

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Joe Galindo introduced Mayor Pete Lewis to the group and turned the meeting over to him. Mayor Lewis welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and asked City staff to introduce themselves. The Mayor then indicated the primary purpose of the meeting was for the City to listen to the residents' concerns, respond to questions they could answer immediately and identify items for follow up. The City takes notes of the meeting, which are then sent out to the attendees.

Mayor Lewis facilitated the meeting and discussed the following topics:

- Auburn's history – since most of the residents were new to the area the Mayor shared some interesting facts about Auburn's history.
- City website – residents were encouraged to check out the City's website at [www.auburnwa.gov](http://www.auburnwa.gov) for more information about City services and upcoming events.
- Mayor's Update -- residents were encouraged to sign up for the Mayor's Update, an e-newsletter Mayor Lewis sends out every Friday about what's taken place in the City during the week, upcoming events, etc. He also uses the listserv to send out alerts about road closures, emergencies, etc. as a way to keep the community informed. Since this is a listserv, if you decide you don't want to continue receiving it you can unsubscribe at any time.
- International Farmer's Market – The new International Farmer's Market will have their Grand Opening on Sunday, June 14, in the Transit Center Plaza.

### **Public Safety Related Questions/Comments**

***Residents brought up several neighborhood safety concerns such as drug activity, attempted burglaries, illegal garbage dumping, couples parking, and suspicious individuals going door to door.***

Residents were encouraged to report everything to 911. We, the citizens of Auburn, own the 911 system. You should call 911 whenever you have an emergency, feel something suspicious is going on, need to speak with an officer or file a report. (For your convenience our online reporting system is also available 24 hours a day at [http://www.auburnwa.gov/police/online\\_reporting.asp](http://www.auburnwa.gov/police/online_reporting.asp) if you would prefer to file your report that way.) PLEASE NOTE: If calling from a cell phone you need to ask for an "Auburn Call Receiver."

In addition to emergency issues, residents should also call 911 for non-emergency issues such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc.

Auburn shares ownership of the 911 system with other South King County cities and the calls go to a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. When you call 911 it will be answered by a "Call Receiver." The Call Receiver will determine whether or not your call is an emergency to be handled right away or to have an officer make contact with you to file a non-emergency report. They will ask questions which are specifically designed to obtain information so that the proper response can be made for your call.

If you want to know what the officer finds out be sure to let the Call Receiver know you DO want to be contacted by the officer when they've completed their investigation.

***Several streetlights are not working along 65<sup>th</sup> Street SE, which contributes to the illegal activity we're dealing with. Who do we notify about streetlights being out?***

The Mayor encouraged residents to call 911 to report any streetlights out that have already been dedicated to the City of Auburn. The Mayor explained the City owns about half the streetlights in the city and the other half are owned by Puget Sound Energy. However, the streetlights along 65<sup>th</sup> Street SE probably still belong to the developer since that street hasn't been fully developed yet. The City will determine what the situation is and if the lights still belong to the developer ask them if they would be willing to put a barricade across the road to keep random traffic out of the area until they're ready to begin developing it.

***What can we as a neighborhood do besides calling 911 to address the safety concerns we're having?***

Police Sgt. Hans Krenz gave a brief overview of how Block Watch works. It's built on the concept of neighbors watching out for each other because you know better than anyone else who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't. If you think "maybe I should call 9-1-1 about this," you should. Hans asked those who were interested in participating in a Block Watch to raise their hands, then he passed around a sign up sheet. Joe Galindo agreed to serve as Block Watch Captain. Community Programs Officer Andy Gould will contact Joe about setting up a meeting specifically about the Block Watch and Map Your Neighborhood programs.

It is recommended that Block Watch groups get together at least once a quarter. A gathering could include hosting a National Night Out (NNO) party which takes place annually on the first Tuesday in August. NNO provides an opportunity to increase awareness and safety in the neighborhood; the Mayor and Councilmembers take part in NNO every year.

***What do we need to do to organize as a neighborhood for emergency preparedness?***

The Mayor said that's a really great question, especially in light of the storms we experienced last month. If we have a major earthquake and the bridges go out it could be over a week before anyone can get in or out of these neighborhoods. By organizing it gives the City a way to contact the neighborhoods, find out how they're doing and what type of assistance they need. We depend a lot upon neighborhoods to help each other in situations like this.

Sarah Miller then came forward to give a quick overview of the Map Your Neighborhood and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs offered by the City through Emergency Preparedness. Sarah explained the Map Your Neighborhood program is being combined with Block Watch to help better prepare neighborhoods for emergencies.

***Does Auburn Police Department keep track of pedophiles?***

Chief Kelly said that the Police Department is informed about sex offenders located in our community. He encouraged residents to go online to Family Watchdog at <http://www.familywatchdog.us/Search.asp> to get information about where registered sex offenders live and work.

***What is the City's policy regarding door-to-door solicitation? Some of the residents, especially women home alone or with young children, feel very nervous about strangers going door-to-door in the neighborhood.***

Chief Kelly responded that if you don't know the person who's at your door, don't answer it and call 911 to report strangers going door-to-door in the neighborhood. Let the Police question them and their purpose for being there. The City requires solicitors have a special license. The only exceptions are candidates for political office who are door belling.

When asked if they could post a No Solicitation sign by the entrance to their neighborhood, the residents were told they could post it on their monument, but not on any of the City's utilities poles or signs.

***What is the City's policy about on street parking? There's a truck that parks all the time on 69th St. SE***

City policy states that vehicles cannot be parked on the street in the same spot for more than 72 hours straight. The City will ask Parking Enforcement to check on the truck.

***What about the use of surveillance cameras?***

Video surveillance cameras have become a popular security measure for use by individual homeowners and Homeowner Associations. Surveillance cameras can be a deterrent to criminal activity and a record when criminal activity occurs that can assist police in identifying the perpetrator(s).

In order for a recorded video of criminal incidents identifying suspects to be of assistance to the police department it must have a compatible recording format and possess sufficient resolution capabilities during both low light and daytime recording. Additionally, the recordings cannot violate certain privacy laws if it's to be used in a criminal proceeding.

The Mayor announced that the City brought flyers with the specs for cameras that will work with the City's system. There is also information on the City's web page at <http://www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police.asp>.

## **General Questions/Comments**

***Is there any consideration being given to providing an outdoor public swimming pool in Auburn, similar to the one in Renton?***

Mayor Lewis responded that he's not currently aware of any project to put in a public outdoor swimming pool in Auburn but the City would be delighted to support any citizens group who would like to do that.

***This neighborhood has expressed some interest in becoming a gated community. What would that involve?***

The Mayor said the City would be fine with it, but that means your roads have to go through a formal Street Vacation process to become private, which results in a requirement for the property owners to pay for the former public right of way they've received and take on the costs of maintaining it. The gate would have to be built to appropriate standards, which includes having enough space for vehicles to turn around and the property owners would all need to be in favor of doing this.

After some discussion, the residents agreed not to pursue becoming a gated community at this time.

***What is the City doing to be proactive and alleviate the commuter parking issues in downtown?***

Sound Transit built only half of what they originally planned; it was intended that a second parking garage be built on the other side of the tracks where the surface parking lot off C Street is. The City of Auburn has partnered with Sound Transit and Pierce County Transit to establish a shuttle service between Lakeland Hills and the Transit Center; service will begin February 9, 2009. The Lea Hill area will follow if the Lakeland Hills shuttle is successful.

***What is the best way to be informed about what is going on in Auburn?***

In addition to signing up to receive his weekly Update, the Mayor suggested they visit the City's website at [www.auburnwa.gov](http://www.auburnwa.gov) and read the ***Auburn Reporter***, our local community newspaper that's delivered free to Auburn households every Friday. The residents informed the Mayor that they haven't been receiving the ***Auburn Reporter***. Staff will contact the ***Auburn Reporter*** and ask that they add the Pinnacle Estates neighborhood to their regular routes.

## **Development Related Questions/Comments**

***Why is it we don't seem to be able to attract very good development in Auburn?***

Mayor Lewis updated everyone on all the development currently taking place downtown. The City spent more than five years working with 17 absentee landlords to assemble 26 parcels on 6.5 blocks in the downtown area for development. We won't do exactly the same thing Kent did because we don't want to do anything to hurt our current downtown businesses. Auburn's downtown development will be a mix of retail and market rate housing because we need to bring people downtown to use the retail that's going in.

The first, largest construction project in the Puget Sound region this new year is the new development going up after the old block of taverns on Main Street are gone and a new 92,000 sq ft professional building that includes Key Bank on one side, retail along Main Street and a City Hall Annex on the second floor is going up next to City Hall. Just a month before construction began on a new parking garage and 40,000 square foot medical center going up by the hospital. More development will be taking place across the street from City Hall over the next few years.

The Mayor also spoke about the Robinson property development on the north end of Auburn – a lifestyle center which will include seven big box stores, as well as new housing going in from behind the development to the Green River. Over at the SuperMall the Super Wal-Mart is going in next to the theater. They also signed an agreement with the City to tear down the current Wal-Mart building when the new one is open, which will then be developed into some new restaurants and stores.

### **Summary of Solutions Discussed/Action Items**

1. City staff will check with the developer regarding street lights out on 65<sup>th</sup> and determine if a barricade can be placed temporarily on that road until that street is ready to be developed.
2. Community Programs Officer Andy Gould will contact Joe Galindo to schedule a meeting specifically about the Block Watch and Map Your Neighborhood programs.
3. The residents will consider putting up a No Solicitation sign on their monument.
4. Parking Enforcement will check on the truck parked near entrance on 69<sup>th</sup> Street SE.
5. The City will begin considering a bond to put in an outdoor swimming pool in Auburn.
6. The residents took an informal poll and the consensus was that they don't want to put in a gated community; Joe Galindo will inform the other HOA members.
7. City staff will contact the ***Auburn Reporter*** to request they add the Pinnacle Estates neighborhood (98092-8782 zip code) to their regular delivery routes.

### **Community Services Team Contact Information:**

- Duanna Richards, Community Services Manager, 253-931-3099 or [drichards@auburnwa.gov](mailto:drichards@auburnwa.gov)
- Kirsten Reynolds, Community Services Project Assistant, 253-876-1964, or [kreynolds@auburnwa.gov](mailto:kreynolds@auburnwa.gov)